

### Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 13, 19, 21 and 27. The Claim listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application.

### Claim Listing

1-12 (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
- in response to one request to retrieve an object, selecting one control node to retrieve the object;
  - retrieving, by the one control node, the object from a storage node;
  - storing the object in a cache at the one control node;
  - in response to a subsequent request to retrieve the same object, selecting another control node; and
  - storing the object in another cache at the another control node, a number of control nodes each storing a respective copy of the object dependent on the number of requests to retrieve the object.
14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein:
- the selecting of the one control node and the selecting of the another control node are accomplished by a level four switch.
15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein:
- the selecting of the one control node and the selecting of the another control node are accomplished by a load balancing fabric.
16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein:
- the one control node and the another control node comprise distributed object storage managers.
17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein:

the selecting of the one control node and the selecting of the another control node are accomplished by a switch that is capable of prioritizing transmission control protocol and user datagram protocol traffic.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein:

the selecting of the one control node and the selecting of the another control node are based on availability of the one control node and the another control node, respectively.

19. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

in response to a plurality of requests for retrieval of an object, selecting control nodes to retrieve the object from a storage node, the selecting being based upon availability of each of the control nodes to retrieve the object; and

storing the object in respective caches in the control nodes, a number of control nodes each storing a respective copy of the object dependent on the plurality of requests for retrieval of the object.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein:

the selecting is accomplished by a level four switch.

21. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a load balancer to, in response to one request to retrieve an object, select one control node to retrieve the object, the one control node being capable of retrieving the object from a storage node and also being capable of storing the object in a cache at the one control node; and

the load balancer being capable of, in response to a subsequent request to retrieve the same object, selecting another control node to retrieve the object, the another control node being capable of retrieving the object from the storage node and of storing the object in a cache at the another control node, a number of control nodes each storing a respective copy of the object dependent on the number of requests to retrieve the object.

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein:  
the load balancer comprises a level four switch.
23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein:  
the load balancer comprises a load balancing fabric.
24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein:  
the one control node and the another control node comprise distributed object storage managers.
25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein:  
the load balancer comprises a switch that is capable of prioritizing transmission control protocol and user datagram protocol traffic.
26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein:  
the load balancer is capable of selecting the one control node and the another control node based on availability of the one control node and the another control node, respectively.
27. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:  
a load balancer to, in response to a plurality of requests for retrieval of an object, select control nodes to retrieve the object from a storage node, the selecting being based upon availability of each of the control nodes to retrieve the object; and  
each of the control nodes being capable of storing the object in respective caches in the respective control nodes, a number of control nodes each storing a respective copy of the same object dependent on the plurality of requests for retrieval of the object.
28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 27, wherein:

the load balancer comprises a level four switch.

29. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

distributing a plurality of requests to retrieve an object amongst a plurality of control nodes by selecting for each of the plurality of the requests one of the plurality of control nodes to retrieve the object;

retrieving, by a control node, the object from a storage node; and

storing the object in a cache at the control node, a number of control nodes each storing a respective copy of the same object dependent on the number of requests to retrieve the object.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein:

the selecting of the one of the plurality of control nodes is accomplished by a load balancing fabric.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein:

the control nodes comprise distributed object storage managers.